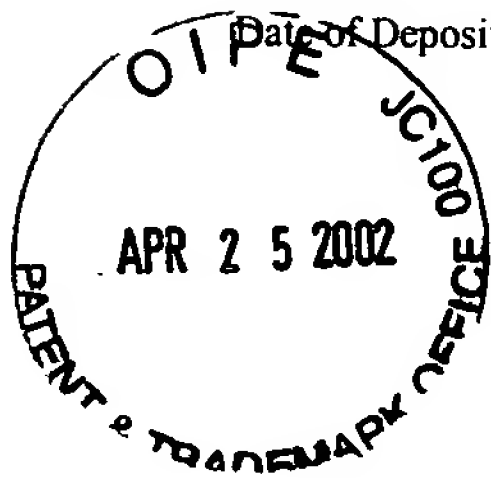


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Date of Deposit: April 25, 2002

#11
RESPONSE
D Smalls-Logan
51402

Our Case No. 10290/17

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Bonavita et al.

Serial No. 09/510,077 ✓

Filing Date: February 22, 2000

For: ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR

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)
)
) Examiner: P. Nguyen

)
) Group Art Unit No.: 2833
)

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

In response to the Office Action mailed November 29, 2001, Applicants respectfully submit the following remarks.

Applicants would like to thank Examiners Tho Ta and Phuongchi Nguyen for the courteous and helpful discussion held with Applicants' representatives on March 18, 2002. During the discussion it was noted that the language of the claimed invention, and in particular, the "given cross-sectional one-way footprint," appears to distinguish the present invention over the cited art.

The present invention is directed towards electrical connectors, and more particularly, to miniature electrical connectors having superior alignment capabilities during assembly, increased contact density and ruggedness. Electrical connectors are used in multiple applications in many areas. Particularly prevalent is their use in devices such as automobiles, where the current emphasis has been on combining greater reliability, miniaturization and reduced cost. Applicants have discovered that by designing an electrical connector which includes a contact